

ted ten in the manner prescribed by the act. Thus in the opinion of the undersigned, there has been a substantial compliance with the act. From the foregoing representation it will appear, that the blessings of education not only in the lower but in the higher departments are dispensed annually, free of charge to eighty boys, ten of whom have not only been so taught, but furnished also with the necessary books to enable them to participate in the illuminating influence of the said Institution. It does not appertain to the province of the undersigned to make a descant on the benefits of education and its pervading agency in sustaining our free institutions. The time has long since passed away if in this state there ever was such time, when men of such contracted minds could be found as to deny the fitness and policy of diffusing knowledge among the great body of the people.

It is hoped, that there are now no such persons, who thus linger behind the times in which they live. If such there be, they will fain conceal their scruples, and rather than venture to attack the principles openly, will mask their hostility under captious objections to detail.

To the Rev. Mr. M'Elroy, in reference to the said Institution, the highest praise is due for his active philanthropy. With a single eye to the well being of society in the diffusion of education among its members, this benevolent citizen has encountered severe labors. It was thro' his indefatigable exertions that money was raised for the building, it was by his superintendence it was speedily erected, and it was by his agency that this Institution went into operation, and it is by his enlightened supervision that it is now in "the full tide of successful experiment. Without the least emolument of any kind; without any compensation whatever, this benevolent citizen devotes a large portion of his time and labor to this Institution, which has rendered, and is still rendering great benefits to the surrounding population.

Although it may not be strictly within the province of the undersigned, they cannot forbear, in conclusion, to advert to the female school, under the direction of the